



### SEPTEMBER TRIP TO ALVISO AND DUMBARTON BRIDGE

Forty-five members and guests of the society met at Alviso on Sunday, September 13, for a study of the Alviso and Dumbarton marshes. The weather was very warm and muggy and the visibility was poor owing to an overcast sky. Prospects for the day did not seem too promising.

However, birding turned out to be "hot" too. Carlyle Sather started the day off by taking the group to a pasture area about a mile west of the town where approximately 50 burrowing owls were clearly visible. They were sitting on mounds apparently trying to figure out what to do in such uncomfortable weather. On the levees west of Alviso two golden plovers were spotted by Junea W. Kelly and Carlyle Sather. Several others also saw these birds before they flew away. Other outstanding finds for the day were a white-tailed kite by Emily Smith observed while she was travelling from Santa Clara; and a black-necked stilt on the mud flats east of Alviso observed by Enid Austin. At least 3 clapper rails were seen from the S. P. bridge in the Dumbarton area. About 100 white pelicans were also seen in this area.

A total of 48 species was listed as compared with 39 last year; eared grebe, white pelican, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, American egret, black-crowned night heron, pintail, cinnamon teal, shoveller, turkey vulture, white-tailed kite, sparrow hawk, ring-necked pheasant, clapper rail, snowy plover, killdeer, golden plover, black-bellied plover, black turnstone, long-billed curlew, Hudsonian curlew, spotted sandpiper, willet, greater yellow-legs, least sandpiper, red-backed sandpiper, dowitcher, western sandpiper, marbled godwit, avocet, black-necked stilt, northern phalarope, Calif. gull, ring-billed gull, short-billed gull, Forster tern, burrowing owl, Say phoebe, barn swallow, mockingbird, loggerhead shrike, house sparrow, western meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, Brewer blackbird, house finch, savannah sparrow, song sparrow.

— HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Leader and Historian*.

**NEW MEMBERS.** We welcome the following: from San Francisco, Malcolm S. Clark, H. C. Cranfill, Mrs. Virginia Orton, Mrs. Nion Tucker, Miss Kate Wilson; from Oakland, George B. Furniss, Mrs. Elizabeth E. Jordan, Mrs. Harlan A. Eveleth, Paul A. Grunland; from El Cerrito, Dr. Wallace Procter; from Kentfield, Dr. Paul T. Wilson; from Hayward, Steve Herman; from Denver, Ross McFadyen.

## SEPTEMBER TRIP TO GOLDEN GATE PARK

On September 26, a group of 23 met at Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park at 9 under the leadership of Arthur Myer. The sky was gray, there was no wind, and on the first lake there were few birds. However, the appearance of a creeper on a nearby tree quickly revived hopes of better birding. At lunch time the group moved to Metson Lake, where most of the birds were seen. In the afternoon the party continued to Mallard Lake, Elk Glen Lake, and finally to Stow Lake. The following 27 species were observed: pied-billed grebe, pintail, wood duck, canvasback, ruddy duck, northern phalarope, western gull, downy woodpecker, black phoebe, western flycatcher, rough-winged swallow, chestnut-backed chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, robin, hermit thrush, orange-crowned warbler, yellow warbler, myrtle warbler, Audubon warbler, Townsend warbler, yellow-throat, Brewer blackbird, Oregon junco, white-crowned sparrow, fox sparrow, song sparrow. (What, no mallards! —Ed.)

— R. R. CHASE, *Historian*.

## MORE ABOUT COWBIRDS

All during the month of August, 1953, it was possible to find an immature cowbird on the public beach at the west end of Donner Lake just at the foot of Donner Grade. This bird was so tame that it fed readily from the hands of picnickers. This season was the first time that I have observed cowbirds there.

— FERD. RUTH

## WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS AT MOSS LANDING

The white-faced glossy ibis, a migrant along the coast as far north as Watsonville, has been reported at Moss Landing several times in the past few years by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson of Salinas. On October 10, fourteen members of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, including the Andersons, my wife and I, had the good fortune to observe one of these birds for an extended length of time, north of the construction road at Moss Landing. Three white-tailed kites were also seen on this trip.

— CARLYLE SATHER.

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The publication of another new bird book is announced by the National Audubon society, "An Album of Southern Birds", with photographs by Samuel A. Grimes of Jacksonville, Florida, and text by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., our screen tour lecturer for October. Two photographs of that recent immigrant to Florida, the Cattle Egret, are included. Prepublication price is \$7.50, after publication \$8.75. Mr. Sprunt has also been engaged recently in the revision of "Florida Bird Life" by the late Arthur H. Howell.

The June 1953 number of Audubon Field Notes includes the Winter Bird Population Study, with 33 reports, mostly from the eastern states, but including 7 from Colorado and 0 from California.

## OBSERVATIONS

POMARINE JAEGER, Sept. 23, Bay Farm Island (Russell Pray, Junea W. Kelly); WOOD DUCKS, one each on north Chain of Lakes and Metson Lake, Sept. 20 (Joel Hedgpeth); SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, Oct. 2, Mid- (RP, JWK); 6 on Oct. 10 (JWK); PECTORAL SANDPIPER, Sept. 23, 3 at Bay Farm Island (RP, JWK); NORTHERN PHALAROPE, Sept. 20, 15 on Elk Glen Lake, 8 on Metson Lake (JH); GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL, Sept. 27, adult at Berkeley Aquatic Park (Larry Curl); COMMON TERN, Sept. 27, Berkeley Aquatic Park (LC); YELLOW-BREASTED SAPSUCKER, Oct. 3, Redwood Canyon (JWK); CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE, pair in Berkeley, Oct. 3 (Clelia Paroni); MOCKINGBIRD, 3 in El Cerrito, Oct. 9 (LC); HERMIT THRUSH, Oct. 5, Alameda (JWK); Berkeley, Oct. 13 (CP); OLIVE (RUSSET)-BACKED THRUSH, Oct. 5, Alameda (JWK); CEDAR WAXWING, Sept. 5, El Cerrito (LC); flock at Ross, Oct. 14 (JWK); AUDUBON WARBLER, Metson Lake, Sept. 19 (JWK); TOWNSEND WARBLER, Alameda, Oct. 8 (JWK); AM. REDSTART, Sept. 19, Chain of Lakes, Florence Plymell; WESTERN TANAGER, Sept. 20, Metson Lake (JH); Sept. 21, Alameda (JWK); Sept. 24, El Cerrito (LC); GAMBEL WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, Sept. 21, Alameda (JWK); FOX SPARROW, Alameda, Sept. 29 (JWK).

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The November 1953 number of SUNSET had another article on birds entitled "The Dazzling Egrets". Reference to another article in this magazine in the October GULL was incorrect in ascribing authorship to Roger T. Peterson. Apparently this referred only to the photograph of the osprey. Thanks to Viola Anderson, Editor of THE SANDERLING, Bulletin of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, for calling this to our attention.

In the October, 1953, number of READERS DIGEST is an article entitled "The Miracle of Birds", by Alan Devoe (Reported by Joel Hedgpeth).

D. R. Griffin, in an article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences for August 1953, "Acoustic Orientation in the Oil Bird, *Steatornis*", found that the oil bird or guacharo of northern South America, a bird that inhabits dark caves, can fly successfully in total darkness. When so flying it emits clicking sounds at frequent intervals and locates walls, etc., by echo, in a similar manner as do bats, which use ultrasonic waves for the same purpose, whereas the clicks of the oil bird are audible by humans. When the ears of captive birds were plugged, they promptly flew into the walls of a darkened room, which they could negotiate successfully otherwise.

Participants in the June trip to Mt. Hamilton Springs will be sorry to hear of the accidental death of the proprietor, Dewitt Portal, who was crushed by a bulldozer on Sept. 26. Portal was boxing coach at San Jose State College.

SCREEN TOUR LECTURE—The second in the series will be given on Monday, November 9; speaker, Murl Deusing, "Outlaws in Nature", at the Berkeley High School Little Theatre at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for the series are still available from Miss Doris Brennenman, 1740 Walnut Street, Berkeley, phone AS. 3-0607.



## NOVEMBER MEETING

The 434th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the Commissioners' Room of the San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, on November 12 at 7:30 p.m. After the business meeting, Mr. John Thomas Howell, Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences, will give a talk on "Spring Flowers of the Desert", illustrating it with some of Mr. Charles Webber's beautiful color slides.

—DOROTHY DEAN SCOTT, *Program Chairman.*

## NOVEMBER TRIP TO CONN LAKE

On Sunday, November 15, to Conn Lake in Napa County. This is an unusually good location for waterfowl during the hunting season as it is a game refuge. Last year we saw 74 species on this trip, with 18 from the duck, goose and swan family, 13 of other water birds, also red-shouldered (red-bellied) hawks and golden eagles. Transportation by private car. Meet at the bridge on the Silverado Trail a mile or so north of Napa at 9:30. The turnoff for Conn Lake is on the Silverado Trail 16 miles north of Napa. Leader, Kenneth Schulz, KE. 2-5552. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescope, and interested friends.

## NOVEMBER TRIP TO BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK

On Saturday, November 29, to the Berkeley Aquatic Park and vicinity. Meet at University and San Pablo in Berkeley at 8:30. From San Francisco take the "G" bus (Check schedule in advance). Birding at the Aquatic Park, starting at the northend, KRE Pool, perhaps also at the Yacht Harbor and Municipal Pier. Leader, Kenneth Schulz, KE. 2-5552. Bring lunch if desired, binoculars, telescope, and interested friends.

—ALBERT BOLES, *Acting Field Trips Chairman.*

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS.** The San Francisco Count will be held on December 27 with Arthur Myer as leader; the Oakland Count will be held on January 3 with Larry Curl as leader. See the December Gull for further details.

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### Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

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### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

### Branch of National Audubon Society

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